

| CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT | |
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| Project Name: Construct an air monitoring shelter with air monitoring equipment on State land. | Proposed Implementation Date: Spring 2012 |
| Proponent: Montana Department of Environmental Quality, 110 N Last Chance Gulch, Helena Montana 59601 | |
| Type and Purpose of Action: Montana Department of Environmental Quality is requesting and Land Use License to place an air monitoring shelter in the Malta area in order to obtain information about local air quality. They will establish a site to monitor current pollution levels as well as levels that might change as a result of oil and gas development that may occur in the area in the future. The site would consist of a monitoring shelter 12 feet long by 8 feet wide. The shelter would be fenced with a chain link fence about 16 feet by 20 feet to keep out livestock. | |
| Location: S2NW4, Section 32 Township 30 North Range 30 East | County: Phillips |

| I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT | |
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| 1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project. | Montana Department of Environmental Quality contacted the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Glasgow Unit Office and made a Land Use License application to place a 12 feet long by 8 feet wide monitoring shelter on State land. The surface lessee of the State land involved with this project has been contacted. There may be other agencies that have involvement with this project that the writer of this document is not aware of. |
| 2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED: | Other government agencies that may have jurisdiction for this type of project are Montana Department of Environment Quality, Air Quality Division, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Real-estate Management Bureau. |
| 3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: | <p>Action Alternative: Grant a Land Use License to Montana Department of Environmental Quality to place air monitoring equipment on State land.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Deny a Land Use License to Montana Department of Environmental Quality to place air monitoring equipment on State land.</p> |

| II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT | |
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| RESOURCE | POTENTIAL IMPACTS |
| 4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compatible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations? | Action Alternative: This type of project will not alter the silty loam and clay soils on the State land. The project will be located on old concrete slabs that were formerly used for wood grain bins. This location would not require any type of reclamation when the life of the project is completed. |

| II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT | |
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| | No Action Alternative: Under this alternative, there will be no impacts to the silt and clay loam soils on the State land. |
| 5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality? | <p>Action Alternative: The project will have no impacts to the water quality, quantity or distribution on or near the State land.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative, there will be no impacts to water quality, quantity or distribution.</p> |
| 6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)? | <p>Action Alternative: The air monitoring equipment will monitor air on the State land and surrounding lands. The equipment will not emit particulates or other pollutants.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the air quality.</p> |
| 7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present? | <p>Action Alternative: There are no native rangeland plants that will be impacted by the monitoring station. The monitoring equipment will be located on a site containing old concrete.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to any type of small grain vegetation.</p> |
| 8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish? | <p>Action Alternative: The State land contains some habitat resources for wildlife and upland birds. The Montana National Heritage Programs identified the following species are known to exist on the township and range for this tract. The species that are found on or near this tract are Great Blue Herron, Burrowing Owl, Great Sage Grouse, and Bobolink. The reptiles for this area are Western Hog-nosed snake. These are not species of concern in this area. The project site has very minimal habitat for any of the species listed.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there would be no impacts to the habitat resources associated with the State land.</p> |
| 9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern? | <p>Action Alternative: The area of impact contains no known unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources. The State land contains no wetlands or sensitive animal or plant species.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there would be no impacts to the unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources.</p> |
| 10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present? | <p>Action Alternative: The area of impact contains no known historical or archaeological sites. The majority of the project area is rangeland with old concrete slabs for granaries. The concrete slabs will be the location for the air monitoring equipment.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative</p> |

| II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT | |
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| | there will be no impacts to the historical or archaeological sites. |
| 11. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light? | <p>Action Alternative: This type of project will have no impacts to the aesthetics associated with the State land. The air monitoring building construction will be visible to the general public from a highway.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the aesthetics of the State land.</p> |
| 12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project? | <p>Action Alternative: This type of project will place no demands on environmental resources of land, water, air, or energy.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the land, water air or energy.</p> |
| 13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract? | <p>Action Alternative: This type of project will have no impact to other studies, plans or projects that Department of Natural Resources and Conservation may have in place on the State land.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the other projects that may be occurring on the State land.</p> |

| III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION | |
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| RESOURCE | POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES |
| 14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area? | <p>Action Alternative: The construction of a building to house the air monitoring equipment has various human health and safety risks. The risks are understood by the employer and employee as occupational hazards. The impacts will be mitigated by the use of professional employees for the building construction.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts on human health and safety under this alternative.</p> |
| 15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities? | <p>Action Alternative: The project will have no impact to the current activities that may be occurring on the State land. Livestock grazing activities will continue to occur in the vicinity of the air monitoring project.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the livestock grazing activities that are occurring on the State land.</p> |
| 16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number. | <p>Action Alternative: The project will not create any new jobs for Phillips County residents.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the employment of the area under this alternative.</p> |

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| <p>17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?</p> | <p>Action Alternative: The writer of this document is not aware of what types of taxable values can be placed on air monitoring equipment or structures.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the local and state tax base.</p> |
| <p>18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed?</p> | <p>Action Alternative: The project will place no additional demands for government services. Montana Department of Environmental Quality will inspect the air monitoring equipment for data over the life of the project.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no demands for government services under this alternative.</p> |
| <p>19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?</p> | <p>Action Alternative: The project will have no impacts on environmental plans or goals. There are no other management plans on this project other than those implemented by Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to locally adopted environmental plans or goals under this alternative.</p> |
| <p>20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?</p> | <p>Action Alternative: The area of impact has very minimal recreational values for hunting, bird watching, or scenic hiking etc. The project will have no impacts on the recreational values of the surrounding lands.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the recreational activities under this alternative.</p> |
| <p>21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?</p> | <p>Action Alternative: The project will not impact the density and distribution of population and housing.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to population and housing under this alternative.</p> |
| <p>22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?</p> | <p>Action Alternative: The project will not disrupt the traditional lifestyles of the local community. The local communities are rural agriculture orientated. This project will not impact the local community of Malta or its surrounding area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts on local communities.</p> |
| <p>23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?</p> | <p>Action Alternative: The project will not impact the cultural uniqueness and diversity of the State land.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the cultural uniqueness and diversity of the State land under this</p> |

